

# 9 FAM PART IV Appendix C, PANAMA

(TL:VISA-304; 07-30-2001)

## RECIPROCITY

(TL:VISA-304; 07-30-2001)

Class	Fee	No. Applications	Validity
A-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
A-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
A-3 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
B-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
B-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
B-1/B-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
C-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
C-1/D	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
C-2	NONE	ONE	12 MONTHS
C-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
D	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
E-1 [2]	NO TREATY	N/A	N/A
E-2 [2]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
F-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
F-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-5 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
H-1B	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-1C	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-2A	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-2B	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
I	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
J-1 [4]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
J-2 [4]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
K-1	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-2	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
K-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
L-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
L-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
M-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
M-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
N-8	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
N-9	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
NATO 1-7	N/A	N/A	N/A
O-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
O-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
O-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]

P-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
Q-1 [6]	NONE	MULTIPLE	15 MONTHS [3]
R-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
R-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
S-5 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-6 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-7 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
TD [5]	N/A	N/A	N/A
V-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
V-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]
V-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]

## **SPECIAL CLEARANCE AND ISSUANCE PROCEDURES**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

Posts with CLASS capability should not send IV clearance requests to Panama unless a CLASS check indicates derogatory information on file there.

## **DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS**

### **Military Records**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

Unavailable.

### **Police and Prison Records**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

Available only from 1923 to present. A majority of records were destroyed in 1923, however, a few older records remain. Police records are also available from the former Canal Zone before October 1, 1982. Applicants for immigrant visas who have resided in either Panama or the former Canal Zone should be asked to obtain both a police certificate (historial policivo y penal) from Panama and a good conduct certificate from the former Canal Zone. The two jurisdictions kept separate records, so an applicant could have a criminal record in either.

## Police Records

(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)

Panamanian police records issued prior to December 20, 1989, are unreliable and are considered unavailable. Applicants should be required to obtain new police records. Since the establishment in February 1990 of a new national police force in Panama, police records can be considered reliable. Police certificates are issued by "El Director de la Policia Tecnica Judicial" (PTJ) (Technical Judicial Police). Address: P.O. Box 1299 Zone 1, Panama, Republic of Panama.

Police records for applicants between 16 and 18 years of age must be requested by an older relative (applicant's father or mother or even brother or sister) with Panamanian "cedula" (ID card). The PTJ will not issue a police certificate requested by anyone under age 18. Processing time is normally 10 days.

The request must be submitted with one current photograph of the visa applicant; full name; maiden name, if any; sex and marital status. Panamanian cedula or passport number; nationality; and date and place of birth. Both parents' names; place or former places of residence in Panama; and reason for requesting the police certificate.

Official paper (papel habilitado) can be obtained from a Panamanian Consulate. Alternatively, the request for a police certificate can be made through the Panamanian Embassy and/or Consulate or by a Panamanian attorney with a power of attorney. The processing time usually takes three to four weeks. The request must be signed by the applicant and a copy of the applicant's Panamanian cedula must be submitted.

Former Canal Zone certificates of good conduct should be requested from the Panama Canal Commission, Administrative Service Division, APO AA 34001-2300 or Panama Canal Commission, Administrative Services Division, Balboa, Ancon, Panama. Requests should include full name; maiden name; sex; date and place of birth; marital status; current address; Panamanian cedula number if available, and the address of the U.S. Foreign Service post to which the certificate is to be sent.

**NOTE:** After October 1982, all former Canal Zone police jurisdiction ceased. Applicants who were 16 years of age or less on October 1, 1982, or residents of the Republic of Panama after that date, do not need a Canal Zone certificate of good conduct.

## **Birth Certificate**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

Available for persons born since April 15, 1914, when the Civil Registry of Panama was established. An incomplete record of births prior to that date has been compiled from secondary sources.

Under Panamanian Law No. 60 of September 30, 1946, children born out of wedlock are legitimate if they are recognized by their natural father. As there have been cases of men recognizing children who were not their natural offspring, a literal copy (*copia integra*) of the birth certificate should be requested in all cases where it is necessary to establish paternity and to determine if the child was recognized at birth.

A literal copy of a Panamanian birth certificate includes a record of adoption, which will normally suffice for an adoption certificate. The certificate can be obtained only from the notary public that recorded the adoption proceeding.

## **Marriage Certificate**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

Available since April 15, 1914. Only scattered records are available prior to that date.

## **Death Certificate**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

Available. May be obtained from the same sources as birth certificates.

## **Passports: Other Travel Documents**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

**Regular Passports** issued on and after September 9, 1969, are valid for five years and are not renewable. There may be a fee for this service.

**Salvo Conducto** and **Permiso de Regreso**, when presented together, meet the requirements of INA 101(a)(30). **Salvo Conductos** are valid for a maximum of one year and are not renewable.

**NOTE:** Civil documents from the Registro Civil (birth, death, divorce and marriage certificates) may be obtained by writing to the: Director General, Registro Civil, Tribunal Electoral, Apartado 5281, Panama 5, Republic of Panama. There may be a fee for this service.

**Civil documents from the former Canal Zone** birth, marriage, and death certificates are available from 1904 to September 30, 1979. They should be requested from the Department of State at the following address: Correspondence Branch, Passport Services, 1111-19th Street, NW, Suite 510, Washington, D.C. 20522-1705, Telephone number 202-955-0307.

**NOTE:** Under the Panama Canal Treaty, civil documents from respective depositories under former Canal Zone government must be transferred to the Republic of Panama. However, it is difficult to predict with any degree of certainty just when a transfer will be formally effected, and it is quite possible that applicants may initially encounter delays in obtaining these documents from the Panama Civil Registry. Documents from the former Canal Zone should be obtained directly from: Correspondence Branch, Passport Services, 1111-19th Street, NW, Suite 510, Washington, D.C., Telephone number 202-955-0307.

## **VISA ISSUING POST**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

Panama (E) All Categories

**Address:**

UNIT 0945

APO AA 34002-9100

## **GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVICED**

*(TL:VISA-215; 10-24-2000)*

All of Panama.